

ALASKA'S FIERCE BEASTS

SPORTSMEN AFTER BIG GAME CAN

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A Winter Colony of Polar Bears on St.

Matthew's Island—Perovotom and Branded Grizzlies—Great Herds of Moose and Caribou—The Native with Food.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10.—The sportsman who wants to hunt big game can get his fill in Alaska," said John G. McGrath of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. Mr. McGrath has charge of the work of determining the boundary line between Alaska and the British Columbia coast. He has just returned from one of his annual trips north.

"If the hunter seeks bear, moose, and caribou, he will find plenty there," continued Mr. McGrath. "People who believe that the polar bear is almost extinct or that he is to be found only in the extreme north are very much mistaken. The great herd of these bears ranges from the south as St. Matthew's Island, in Behring Sea. The island lies several hundred miles from the mainland, and here the polar bears spend the winter. Nobody lives on the

Matthew's Island—Peromomomus Broadened Grizzlies—Great Herds of Moose and Caribou—Supply the Natives with Food.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8.—"The sportsman who wants to go to the most interesting part of Alaska," said John G. McGrath of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Mr. McGrath has charge of the work of determining the boundary line between Alaska and the British possessions, and he has just returned from one of his trips to the north.

"If the hunter goes for moose, caribou and sheep, he will find plenty there," continued Mr. McGrath. "People who believe that the polar bear is almost extinct or that he is to be found only in the extreme north are very much mistaken, for droves of these fierce animals come as far south as the Aleutian Islands," in Behring Sea. The Island he surveyed was a small island off the mainland, and here the polar bears spend the winter. Nobody lives on the island. Years ago it was inhabited by a colony of Russians, but the settlement was practically wiped out by the attacks of the white bear. A few years ago there were but three sailors on the island to hunt the bears for the skins. The following spring the sealer returned and found one survivor. He was not able to tell what had become of his companions. They had left camp one day and had not returned, and it is supposed that they were devoured by bears.

"The island of McGrath has a colony of several hundred polar bears, while on Alaska there are none. When the ice begins to break up in the warm season they leave the island and follow the seal and walrus into the Arctic Ocean. These animals do not mind a swim of from 150 to 200 miles if they can find an occasional iceberg to rest on.

"The most ferocious animal to be found in the Alaska country is the Mount St. Elias grizzly. He is even fiercer than the Rocky

Mountain variety, and the natives have many stories of his terrible doings. This grizzly is very tenacious of life. Lieut. Evans of the Revenue Marine Service told me of an instance almost beyond belief. A hunter had killed a grizzly and was cutting and putting meat in his heart. The bear rushed forward a hundred feet and, seizing the man, literally tore him to pieces and then dropped dead. The hunter's bullet was found embedded in the heart of the beast. No Indian will attack a Mount St. Elias grizzly. The brown bear is much fiercer, and the sight of one or the other of these animals will make a grizzly growl and roar. When my party was making preparations to start for Mount St. Elias last year, the natives told us that the grizzlies were so numerous and so ferocious that we should count the ferocity of the grizzlies. He said they would drag us from our beds, and that no man could stand up to them. The chief of the Port Simpson Indians also told me that the grizzlies were much to be feared.

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of these bears seized a man, and, although the bear actually got the man's head in its mouth, the man was not hurt. The bear was so fortunate in having a very hard, bullet-shaped skull, and the teeth of the bear slipped on the man's head. The bear then turned around and tossed the contents of a Hudson Bay blunderbuss straight into the bear and bruin toppled over, and the bear and hunter lying side by side, both apparently dead. This proved to be correct, as the bear was dead, but the hunter showed signs of life and was eventually resuscitated. He was crazy for a long time after that, but he got over it. The next day we went to Mount St. Elias and camped on the summit, and tickish work it was, too, not on account of the mountain being tickish, but because of the mountain. It was really so steep there that if one tossed in his sleep he was in danger of falling off the mountain. It was so steep that to be more of a menace to our lives than the grizzlies, for while we were there we saw only one big fellow on the beach one day eating fish. They returned to camp and with four others

bear was struck by bullets several times and made repeated rushes at his tormentors, but he was finally bowled over. When his skin was stretched out to dry, it looked larger to me than the biggest black bear I had ever seen. "The wolverine is another animal to be found in that country. It is very valuable on account of its skin. While the Indians do not hold it in the fear that they have for the grizzly and the brown bear, they attribute to it supernatural powers as great as and many as those the Japanese ascribe to the badger and the fox. It is called in the Indian language a wolverine or 'mountain devil' and the call by which it is

they attempt to sidetrack his displeasure by blaming his misfortune on the white man, whose shoulders are believed to be broad enough to bear all the ills of life. 'White man set trap,' the Indian will say, walking cautiously around

the imprisoned wolverine. "White man no good. Damn white man." But it is with the caribou and the moose that the hunter will find his most fruitful sport. During the summer months these animals feed in the valley of the Tanana and on the high land between the Tanana and the Yukon. As cold weather comes on they travel south toward the coast. Then is the time when the Indians have to secure the bulk of the season's food. The Alaska miners also hunt them with great success. In the winter of 1884-85, when our provisions gave out, I lived almost entirely on moose and caribou meat.

run the mires at Forty-mile Creek. That was the greatest hunting season ever known in Alaska. The caribou and moose region is about 200 miles from the mouth of the Porcupine River and seventy-five miles from Fort Yukon. It is accessible, yes, if the sportsman has time and money. At the Fairbanks House of the Hudson Bay Company there have sometimes a supply of 25,000 or 30,000 pounds of venison on hand. A miner told me that he saw moose and caribou so thick in one of the fall migrations that the herd looked like the side of a mountain moving. If

may have as much sport as he wishes. He may follow the animals without difficulty until the tines of killing them. The route of migration is not always the same, and, knowing this, the Indian hunting parties divide up into sections in order to cover more territory. Great bands of wolves follow the herds and devour the young and the sickly."

New Discoveries in Egypt.
From the *Athenaeum*.
OCTOBER, 1894.—Among the recent scientific

ons of the Giza Museum, perhaps the most noticeable are two squads of soldiers from a sixth dynasty tomb at Assiut, which have been found since last winter. Each squad consists of four figures, fixed to a wooden burial mask, and dressed in the act of marching. The first figure is composed of men of a brown complexion, probably Egyptians, with thick heads of hair fastened back with the usual band, which is tied behind. The figures are of wood and are about thirteen inches high, the whole squad being well sized and containing few men below the general standard.

The yellowish in color, made of a thin cloth, white half way to the knees, while the equipment consists of spear and shield. The spears are about the height of the men themselves, and are carried vertically with the butts at the level of the knee. The heads are bronze, and measure up about one-sixth of the total length of the shaft, becoming very broad where they meet the haft, like the large spades of the Hagia-Araba of to-day. The shields, which are about eight inches from top to bottom, have a square base and come to a point at the top. Inside there is a wooden battens across them at

The first part where the shield begins to narrow, is intended to serve as a carry by. All the shields are painted with ruler splashes of color, or irregular blotting, while the shields of the paragon are decorated with horizontal bands, almost willing to find the bars of heraldic shields; but so far as the position of the soldiers bearing these in the parade goes, nothing tends to show that they had any distinguishing value.

The second squad are black-skinned, and the shields are similarly dressed and tied back, while their clothing consists of a very scanty loin cloth of a red or yellow color, and some few narrow necklaces and anklets. They are armed

The looks and brows—only, each man carrying up arrows in his right hand and a bow in his left. These arrows are tipped with flint, slightly shaped to a chisel-like edge and not with the sharp point.

The race distinction between the two squads very marked, by a difference not only in complexion, but in size; for the black soldiers are at least half a head shorter and have, besides, a much larger proportion of small men in their ranks. The Egyptian squad is closely "packed" in which the ranks stand strongly with the much more formation in which the black troops are marching; and though the

the fact that the blacks are armed with the sword instead of the shield and spear, still the impression which one gets is that they represent irregular forces, rather than the regular armed bodies to which the other squad seems to belong.

An extremely fine model of a boat comes from a twelfth dynasty tomb. It is five feet long, about fifteen inches broad, and is fully decked over, and the after part of the deck is occupied by a two-roomed cabin, which takes up rather more than half the whole deck space. Each end has a wooden door, on which is drawn a

the forward cabin five figures are seated, three on the forward part of the deck are two more figures seated and two standing, one of whom is in the bow with a casting or landing pole. The cabins are roofed over with flat wooden rafters neatly fitted together. The boat is stepped in a hole in the deck and supported by

by a wooden box, which is strengthened
three wooden struts to keep it firm.